

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 13, 2000.

Date _____

Technology Center 2600

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— (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage

-- OR --

X (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits.

— 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, then:

— a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or

— a fee of \$220.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

— 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

A. a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is completed below; **and**

B. a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) requesting consideration of this statement is submitted herewith; **and**

C. a fee of \$130.00 as set forth in §1.17(i)(1) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

X **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above-referenced fees of \$ _____ and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (Docket No. RXSD 1000-1). A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HAYNES & BEFFEL LLP

Date: 13 April 2000

By: 

Mark A. Haynes.

Reg. No. 30,846

HAYNES & BEFFEL LLP
PO Box 366
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 712-0340 (phone)
(650) 712-0263 (fax)